



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

21st February, 2022

Sunday Sermon: 1 Peter 2: 13 - 17

Having reminded the believers to whom he was writing that they were *'exiles and foreigners'* (i.e. not belonging to the natural culture because they had been converted – *'citizens of heaven'*) he now exhorts them to live *'good lives among the pagans'*. That held serious challenges.

It meant understanding the call to **submit 'to every human authority'**. That does not mean blind surrender to the powers that be nor does it imply blinkered opposition, regardless. Various structures of government are intended to *'punish wrongdoing and rewarding the good'*. They provide **order** and the command of submission is to live responsibly - to live under that order as far as it discharges that divine responsibility. *"When governments are bad we have a responsibility to be good for the Lord's sake"*.

On that basis we should realise the challenge to **silence opponents**, not by anger and rebellion, but by countering **through doing good**, for by *'doing good'* we *'silence the ignorant talk of foolish people'*.

Doing that implies **obeying the command to be God's slaves**. We are *'not our own, but bought with a price'*: we belong to Another. Yet, paradoxically, that brings a liberty, not licence to do as anyone likes but to *'show proper respect to everyone, fearing God and honouring the emperor'*. True liberty.

So, we pray: *'Make me a captive, Lord; and then I shall be free'*.

Ladies Meeting

The Ladies' fortnightly meeting takes place this Thursday, 24th February, at 2 pm. The speaker this week is Mima Campbell.

Mission of the Month

We do appreciate the support given by people in recent times to our mission causes. Our cause for February is "Truth for Today" Sam Gordon who will be speaking at both our services on 6th March.

Sam has preaching and teaching ministries in the UK and other countries and was the means of us engaging with John Macleod when we were seeking to appoint a pastor in 2009 support for Sam's ministry will be appreciated.

Scripture Union

Moirra Shaw writes:

I'm part of the SU Action Group for this area. We have a weekend camp organised for 11-13 March '22. As there are no school SU groups running just now, could you please promote this weekend to children and families in your fellowship? This link gives all the details plus booking form: www.suholidays.org.uk/WWDU3a

Bible Study

This week we come to a miscellany of chapters in Deuteronomy 19 – 26 which outline some of the distinctive behaviours expected of the people of God in the Promised Land. It may well have lessons for us, today, too. Next week we will look at some NT teaching on similar issues.

Hashtag

In our round up of church outreach activities we come this week to Hashtag One2Seven.

#One2Seven is a children's club for children from Primary 1 to Primary 7. The club meets every Wednesday evening from 6.30pm until 7.45pm in the church hall, with the purpose of introducing the children to the Bible and Christianity.

We are grateful to God for Simon and Hannah Snodgrass, Child Evangelism Fellowship workers for Scotland, who are based in West Lothian but come through – with baby Edith – each week to bless us with their expertise and enthusiasm. They, in turn are assisted by John and Martha Meagher, along with Carol Macleod, Danny Sutherland, Linda Wilson and Sandy. Each week songs, Bible lessons, and memory verses as well as quizzes, snacks and games all take place. There is now an average of fifteen children who attend regularly. It is a very well-run club, and the children and their parents express how much it is enjoyed and appreciated by them. This is an important activity in the life of Allander Church and your prayers for this outreach to young children and the leaders are very much appreciated.

Understanding what the will of the Lord is

Community Magazine

We have benefitted greatly from using the Milngavie and Bearsden Community Magazine which is distributed free each month to every home in Milngavie and Bearsden. They have included articles and features about our activities and also adverts at Christmas and Easter. A number of people have come to our meetings as a result of this information.

We are planning to have an advert in the April edition with an Easter message and ones in May and June to advertise the proposed Holiday Club in the summer.

Any help with suggestions for content, layout or graphics would be very much appreciated. Contact Jim Gourley

Pray for:

Again, we draw attention to those among us who would appreciate our prayers at this time. Names that have been mentioned recently in our times of prayer are: Allyson Flett, Margaret Stewart back home, Janice Allan waiting surgery, George Cowan in hospital after a fall, Morag and David Wilson, Agnes Wilson, Inga, Ian Baird, Jim Gourley and many others facing different challenges. Others, too, would appreciate support. As would agencies such as SU and the Glasgow outreach missions.

Finally,

As I write this, we are between two storms, Dudley has passed and we are awaiting Eunice. There is certainly nothing threatening in their names, but the forewarning of their coming does create anxiety for people. Growing up in the Hebrides I'm not sure storm Dudley would have even been considered a particularly bad day, but there have been consequences to its presence. It does amaze me how quickly people respond to the warnings of bad weather. Trains get cancelled, people get sent home from work, schools close and we hunker in and prepare for the worst. Yet when it comes to spiritual things, we are slow to respond. Spiritually speaking we are in the midst of some of the worst storms in our history; are we responding as we should by seeking the presence of Christ for safety and shelter and for him to exercise His authority over all that wages against His kingdom? *John Macleod*